

**Trouble With Peaches and Strawberries.**

Editor of The Progressive Farmer :

I bought of the Greensboro nursery 500 strawberry plants and set them out in February, 1902, on mixed soil, clay and sand, the latter predominating. Manured with cotton-seed meal. Set in rows four feet, about 18 inches in drills. Cultivated till September; then barred off on side and gave a manuring of horse-stable manure and hilled them up in December. Covered over the rows with stable manure, very strawy, in February, 1903, cleaned out all weeds, barred off one side, gave a liberal manuring of guano (composed of acid phosphate, kainit and cotton-seed meal, equal parts). The plants were of the Lady Rusk or Ever-bearing variety.

I got an unusually luxuriant growth, and continuous blooming, but got no fruit at all to speak of. Will some one who knows tell through The Progressive Farmer why they did not bear and suggest a course of treatment for the coming season?

2d. I have a few peach trees growing on a high sandy point, well drained, naturally having an elevation of six feet or more. Manure with clover and cow pea vines turned under with commercial fertilizer. The trees and foliage unusually luxuriant, but the peaches rot badly. I spray with Bordeaux mixture in dormant state in full bloom and after, and cultivate them closely. Does close ploughing cause them to not bear, or what does cause it? Will some one answer.

J. H. PARKER.

Hertford Co., N. C.

(Answer by A. D. McNair, Southern Pines Experiment Farm, Moore Co., N. C.)

Judging from the fact that the strawberry plants are described as "unusually luxuriant" it is probable that they were too luxuriant to set much fruit. Too great luxuriance of vines and foliage is antagonistic to the production of fruit.

The cause of this unusual luxuriance was probably too much nitrogen, but as the fertilizer mentioned contained a comparatively small percentage of nitrogen, the plants must have gotten much nitrogen from the stable manure that was applied.

If all nitrogenous fertilizers are withheld from these plants and only phosphates and potash applied, they will probably fruit normally at the next fruiting season, but as the plants have already been in place for two growing seasons, it might be well to reset in a new bed.

2. The "brown rot" of peaches which your correspondent describes, is due to a fungus, and no method of cultivation or lack of cultivation will cure the disease nor will cultivation or plowing aggravate the disease. The spraying with Bordeaux mixture is good, but the rotten peaches should be gathered as fast as they show signs of rot and should be entirely buried or, better still, burned up. No "mummy" peaches should be allowed to hang on the

trees over winter, for each such peach contains myriads of spores of the fungus.

The unusual luxuriance of trees and foliage which your correspondent describes aggravates the rot to a certain degree.

Other things being equal, there will be less rot on trees which have made a moderate growth than on trees which have made a luxuriant growth.

**Do Cows Have "Hollow Horn," "Hollow Tail," Etc. ?**

Editor of The Progressive Farmer :

In your August 4th issue, the above interrogatories propounded by some one were commented on by our veterinarian, Dr. Butler, of the Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C. There are statements made by Dr. Butler that do him an injustice, and which are calculated to invalidate his entire article with most cattle raisers. For instance, he says, "It may be stated that when any portion of the body can be cut off and thrown away without causing any appreciable disturbance of health, it is safe to conclude that no invisible disease of this part will cause serious consequences." Here Dr. Butler was evidently thinking of the results of de-horning of cattle now practiced by some herdsmen. The Doctor overlooked the fact that every farmer in the land would array against this statement the universal practice of castration as performed on their horses, cattle, and swine—a much more serious operation, yet one that does not in the least impair the health of the animals subjected to it. The Doctor makes another statement the laity will discredit or disbelieve—that is, that disease does not produce "hollow horn." Though in the nomenclature of cattle ailments there is no disease known as "hollow horn," this is certainly a condition or symptom found. The laity know that when the horns of their cattle get preternaturally cold, and they bore a hole at the base of the horn and find it empty, there is a serious disease to treat, for they know a "hollow-horn" is unnatural, abnormal, a diseased condition. Another fact is, they treat this disease locally, and always cure it. Whether the horn was primarily or secondarily effected, certainly one prominent symptom or condition prevails:—the osseous matter of the horn has been absorbed and the horn is hollow. My only object in referring to Dr. Butler's answers is to warn him and all other teachers of high authority to be extremely careful in laying their views before the public, and thus avoid the invitation of just criticism. A teacher may say a hundred good things that may be almost wholly lost by inadvertently making one statement that offends universal experience.

J. W. SANDERS, M. D.  
Carteret Co., N. C.

The great happiness of life, I find, after all, to consist in the regular discharge of some mechanical duty.—Schiller.

**Some Farming Notes.**

Editor of The Progressive Farmer :

The writer sowed one and a half bushels of Virginia turf oats on about one acre of land the eleventh day of September, 1902. The land is a very tight red land. Turned under pea vines and in a few weeks after sowed the oats, and had the land well cut with disk or cutaway harrow. The oats were remarkably green all winter and much later ripening in spring or early summer; other oats were cut long before these. Cut and shocked one hundred and seven dozen bundles to the acre.

Did not put any guano or other manure on the land in over a year before. The land had been manured in other years. I do not think the land is extra rich.

We had the dry May, as in other places. My Rockyford canteloupes were well manured, and land thoroughly plowed. Then in a deep furrow sowed high-grade guano and bedded on it, running a deep furrow twice in top of ridge, strewing seed so as to thin out. Rows were four feet wide; plowed once, sowing peas in middle of the row. No trouble in selling melons of this kind.

When our farmers get to the intensive farming there will be less complaint about dry weather. Planted corn in dry weather, covering and then put on rough manure on top of covered corn. Did not replant or thin. The corn is quite a success.

Now is time to plant onion sets or sow seed for early market. Why not grow turnips more extensively? Cows and sheep are fond of them. We are eating good beef and mutton at a great cost.

Do not forget to sow a good rich lot of rye for spring feed. One of the mistakes of the farmer is want of thinking in time to prepare.

Push the work and never let the work push you. Undertake only what you can do in the proper time. Work done too late is a poor business. Do you want only five hundred bushels of corn? Begin now for that next year's crop by plowing and getting up feed for the land so as to make it on ten acres of land. Let your neighbors see how you start and talk with them and get their ideas, but go only by your own judgment.

R. R. MOORE.

Guilford Co., N. C.

**Sow Rape and Turnips Now.**

Turnips should be sown this month. To make the heaviest yield they should be planted in drills 2 feet 6 inches apart and be thinned out after they have made two or three leaves, so as to stand about nine inches apart in the drill. The land should be finely broken and the seed be drilled in—about two pounds to the acre—and be rolled with a light roller. If sown broadcast it will take three or four pounds of seed per acre. Turnips, to make a heavy crop—we have made thirty tons to the acre—require heavy fertilization. From ten to twenty tons of farm-yard manure to the acre may be applied with advantage, and in its absence, or even as a supple-

ment to it, 400 or 500 pounds to the acre of acid phosphate should be used. A crop of turnips makes such a valuable addition to the winter rations of cattle, sheep and hogs that an effort should be made to secure them. With turnips, straw or corn fodder and a pound of cotton-seed meal per head per day young cattle can be carried through the winter in a constantly improving condition.

Dwarf Essex rape should now be seeded for a fall, winter and spring pasture for sheep and hogs. This crop is one of the most valuable for these animals and will make meat and growth very cheaply. Sow two to four pounds to the acre broadcast on well-prepared land and harrow lightly and roll. Let the plants make a fair growth before turning stock on to them, and do not graze too closely and they will then continue to make growth all through the winter and spring and provide constant pasturage.—Southern Planter for August.

The farm labor problem is looming up, and becoming a frightful specter, not only at the present, but the future is greatly obscured by the same unseemly ghost. In the West the grain harvest is the trying time; the the South it comes twice a year, at cotton chopping time and at cotton picking time. Western farmers have had to pay \$1.50 per day and board for harvest hands, and hundreds of Eastern college students have spent their summer vacations in the harvest fields instead of on the football field or base ball diamond. Under present conditions in the South farmers can hardly afford to pay such prices. It is true that expert cotton pickers sometimes earn \$1.50 per day picking cotton at 50 cent per 100 pounds, but this is paying by the piece for work actually done. The only remedy for this condition is better farming, which will enable the farmer to pay such wages as will attract the best class of farm help. It cannot be done on a cotton and corn farm under present conditions. It is only high-class farming that can pay for the class of labor that makes high-class farming possible. Therefore only progress can solve the farm labor question and the farming and the labor must progress together.—Farm and Ranch.

When there are stagnant ponds in the pasture in which the cows stand up to their bellies fighting flies during the heat of the day, there is danger from the milk unless great care is exercised by the milker. Experiments conducted at some of the experiment stations indicate that disease germs do not as readily find their way into the milk through the water the cow drinks as has been generally supposed, but that dirty udders and bodies and the use of impure water for washing the pails, pans, crocks, etc., are prolific sources from which virulent germs come. Stagnant ponds in the cow pasture at this season of the year are menaces to the health of those who drink the milk.—Wallace's Farmer.